



# ecology and environment, inc.

160 SPEAR STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94105, TEL. 415/777-2811

International Specialists in the Environment

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Paul La Courreye, EPA Region IX Site Screening Coordinator  
FROM: Chris Lichens, Ecology and Environment, Inc. *CL*  
DATE: September 14, 1989  
SUBJECT: Completed Work  
cc: Marcia Brooks, E & E, Inc.

Attached is the following completed:

PA\_\_\_ PA Review\_\_\_ SSI\_\_\_ LSI\_\_\_ SIRE X  
Other\_\_\_\_\_

Site Name: J & E Machine

EPA ID #: CAD041473216 *(1090)*

City, County: Santa Cruz

State Recommendation:  
(for Reviews only)

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FOR EPA USE ONLY

CERCLIS Lead: *EPA*

*512 complete 11/8/89 ejd*

*R LSI M*

*Entered  
11/20/89  
BEN*

wp/kal/j&e/sire



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### SCREENING SITE INSPECTION REASSESSMENT

**SUBMITTED TO:** Paul La Courreye, Site Screening Coordinator  
EPA Region IX

**PREPARED BY:** Kenyon A. Larsen, <sup>KAL</sup> Ecology and Environment, Inc.

**THROUGH:** Karen Ladd, Ecology and Environment, Inc.

**DATE:** September 14, 1989

**SITE:** J & E Machine, prepared by Chris Lichens, Ecology and Environment, Inc., dated September 12, 1985.

**TDD#:** F9-8906-043

**EPA ID#:** CAD041473216

**PROGRAM ACCOUNT#:** FCA0337SAA

**FIT REVIEW/CONCURRENCE:** *Chris Lichens, 10/24/89*

**cc:** FIT Master File  
Don Plain, CA Dept. of Health Services

### INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX, has tasked Ecology and Environment, Inc.'s Field Investigation Team (FIT) to reassess all sites with completed Screening Site Inspections (SSI) in the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Information System (CERCLIS) database that are still being considered for further action. The strategy for determining whether these SSIs actually merit further action is based primarily on each site's potential to achieve a score high enough on the proposed revised Hazard Ranking System (rHRS) for inclusion on the National Priorities List (NPL). This strategy is intended to identify those sites posing the highest relative risk to human health or the environment. All other sites needing remedial or enforcement follow-up will be referred to the states or an appropriate federal authority. Actions and involvement by authorities

kal/j&e/si-re

other than the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) will also be considered.

#### SUMMARY

J & E Machine was at 5998 Butler Lane in Scotts Valley, California from 1980 to approximately 1986. J & E was owned by N/C Mattic, Inc. and operated by Ernest and Judy Pitts until it went bankrupt in 1986. In November 1985 Ashland Machine began operation at the site under the ownership of Scott Pitts, the son of Ernest and Judy Pitts. Ernest Pitts is currently the manager of Ashland Machine (1). The facility is approximately 1 acre in size.

J & E Machine manufactured various metal blocks, bars, rods, and other machine components. From 55 to 110 gallons of raw trichloroethylene (TCE) were used annually to degrease machined components in a vapor degreaser. Other materials used on-site included motor oil and an acetone-based product called Dykem. Kerosene was also used in the past for degreasing at J & E.

Waste oils and waste TCE were collected in 55-gallon drums and stored inside the rear of the main building on-site until it could be hauled off-site. The amount of waste TCE hauled off-site (approximately 110 gallons of oil/TCE waste between 1980 and 1984) was much less than the amount of raw TCE (approximately 350 gallons) used during the same period of time. According to J & E Machine, this difference can be accounted for by evaporation.

Ashland Machine employs basically the same machining processes that J & E Machine used, except that Ashland Machine has never used solvents in its processes on-site. Ashland Machine uses a mixture of Ajax cleanser and rocks to remove metal burs from the machined parts produced at the facility. The water from the bur removing process is then discharged into the municipal sewer system (1).

J & E was cited by the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) in September 1984 for an illegal discharge to an adjacent unnamed intermittent creek and for improperly storing hazardous materials. There are no other known instances of major spills or releases to the environment from the site at 5998 Butler Lane.

The unconfined Santa Margarita aquifer, which is a federally designated Sole Source Aquifer, lies approximately 60 feet below ground surface. Private and municipal wells within three miles of the site draw from the Santa Margarita aquifer to provide water through an interconnected, blended system for approximately 12,000 residents in the Scotts Valley area. The closest known contaminated municipal well to the J & E Machine site is the Scotts Valley Water District--El Pueblo Drive Well #3A, which lies approximately 0.5 miles south of the site. A sampling effort conducted by the California Department of Health Services (DOHS) at Well #3A showed TCE levels above 3.0 parts per billion. Well #3A was subsequently closed on July 27, 1985.

The former J & E Machine site is adjacent to an intermittent creek that flows directly into Carbonero Creek. Carbonero Creek is used for recreational fishing and camping downstream from the point at which the intermittent stream enters Carbonero Creek. Carbonero Creek is also a spawning tributary of the San Lorenzo River for steelhead, and Chinook and Pacific salmon (2).

The net seasonal, November to April, rainfall in the Scotts Valley area is approximately 17.49 inches.

#### OTHER AUTHORITY INVOLVEMENT

The California Department of Health Services (DOHS) and the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) are currently conducting a study of groundwater contamination in the federally designated Sole Source Santa Margarita Aquifer. DOHS is the lead agency investigating sites potentially contributing to the contamination plume, known as the El Pueblo Drive contamination plume. J & E Machine is one of the sites included in this investigation (3).

#### CONCLUSION

The J & E Machine site appears to be eligible for inclusion on the National Priorities List due to the following reasons:

- o Proximity to Carbonero Creek;
- o Heavy recreational use and sensitive environments in Carbonero Creek;
- o There appears to be a potential for a release of contaminants to the intermittent creek that is adjacent to the site and empties directly into Carbonero Creek;
- o High groundwater target population;
- o There appears to be a potential for a release of contaminants to groundwater based on the use of substances by J & E Machine similar to those found in municipal well #3A near the site.

#### EPA RECOMMENDATION

	<u>Initial</u>	<u>Date</u>
No Further Remedial Action Planned (NFRAP)	_____	_____
Low-priority LSI (lLSI)	_____	_____
Medium-priority LSI (mLSI)	<u>cjd</u>	<u>11/8/89</u>
High-priority LSI (hLSI)	_____	_____
Defer to Other Authority (D)	_____	_____

## REFERENCES

1. Pitts, Judy, Ashland Machine Bookkeeper, and Kenyon A. Larsen, Ecology and Environment, Inc., telephone conversation, Aug 29, 1989.
2. Getty, Maurice, District Superintendent Santa Cruz Mountain District State Parks, and Kenyon A. Larsen, Ecology and Environment, Inc., telephone conversation, June 26, 1989.
3. Boyer, Gene, California Department of Health Services, and Kim Hall, Ecology and Environment, Inc., telephone conversation, June 22, 1989.

# CONTACT REPORT

<b>AGENCY/AFFILIATION:</b> Ashland Machine		
<b>DEPARTMENT:</b>		
<b>ADDRESS/CITY:</b> 5998 Butler Lane/Scotts Valley		
<b>COUNTY/STATE/ZIP:</b> Santa Cruz/California/95066		
<b>CONTACT(S)</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>PHONE</b>
1. Judy Pitts	Bookkeeper	(408) 438-3232
2. Ernest Pitts	Manager	(408) 438-3232
<b>E &amp; E PERSON MAKING CONTACT:</b> Kenyon A. Larsen		<b>DATE:</b> 8-29-89
<b>SUBJECT:</b> Current status of J & E site		
<b>SITE NAME:</b> J & E Machine		<b>EPA ID#:</b> CAD041473216

Ashland Machine is a different company than J & E Machine. J & E Machine and N.C. Mattic went bankrupt in 1986. Ashland Machine opened in November 1985 and is owned by Scott Pitts, the son of Ernest and Judy Pitts. Ernest is now the manager of the company.

Ashland Machine conducts similar work as J & E Machine did but a slightly different process is used. Instead of using solvents to clean machined parts, Ashland uses a mixture of Ajax cleanser and rocks, which is discharged to the municipal sewer system. Because of this change in processes, Ashland does not need hazardous materials permits from the city of Scotts Valley.

# CONTACT REPORT

<b>AGENCY/AFFILIATION:</b> Santa Cruz Mountain District State Parks		
<b>DEPARTMENT :</b>		
<b>ADDRESS/CITY:</b> 101 North Big Trees Park Road/Felton		
<b>COUNTY/STATE/ZIP:</b> Santa Cruz, CA 95018		
<b>CONTACT(S)</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>PHONE</b>
1. Maurice Getty	District Superintendent	(408) 335-9145
2.		
<b>E &amp; E PERSON MAKING CONTACT:</b> Kenyon A. Larsen		<b>DATE:</b> 6/26/89
<b>SUBJECT:</b> Parks & Wildlife Near San Lorenzo River & Tributaries		
<b>SITE NAME:</b>		<b>EPA ID#:</b>

Mr. Getty stated that there is an overnight campground at Henry Cowell State Park.

Mr. Getty also mentioned that bobcats, mountain lions, pileated woodpeckers, and several types of raptors live in the area.

He also said that the San Lorenzo River is a spawning ground for steelhead trout and Chinook salmon. Presently there is a project to reintroduce these fish species to the SLR and its tributaries to increase their numbers. The SLR is also a trout stream. Fishing on the River is regulated to 2-3 days per week.

# CONTACT REPORT

<b>AGENCY/AFFILIATION:</b> Department of Health Services (DOHS)		
<b>DEPARTMENT:</b> Toxic Substances Control Division		
<b>ADDRESS/CITY:</b> 2151 Berkeley Way, Annex 7		
<b>COUNTY/STATE/ZIP:</b> Berkeley, CA		
<b>CONTACT(S)</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>PHONE</b>
1. Gene Boyer		(415) 540-3433
2.		
<b>E &amp; E PERSON MAKING CONTACT:</b> Kim Hall		<b>DATE:</b> 6/22/89
<b>SUBJECT:</b> Scotts Valley SI-RE Sites		
<b>SITE NAME:</b> Kings Cleaners		<b>EPA ID#:</b> CAD063548135

1) SI-RE Sites incorporated in El Pueblo Road Plume study area.

- Assembly Services
- Ferranti Interdesign
- Instrument Graphics
- Jamie Hood Speed and Machine
- J & E Machine
- Kings Cleaners
- Pettibone Signs
- Rank Electronics
- Scotts Valley Circuits
- Seagate Technology
- Tapemation Machine

Sites not included in the groundwater plume are:

- 2) - Sky Park Leachfield  
- Sky Park Airport  
Contact Richard Brown (805) 549-3147